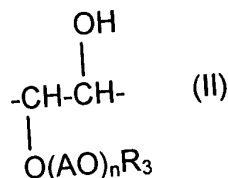


IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-10.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. Nonionic compounds of the general formula RY (I), where R is a substituted aliphatic group containing 1-3 structure elements of the formula

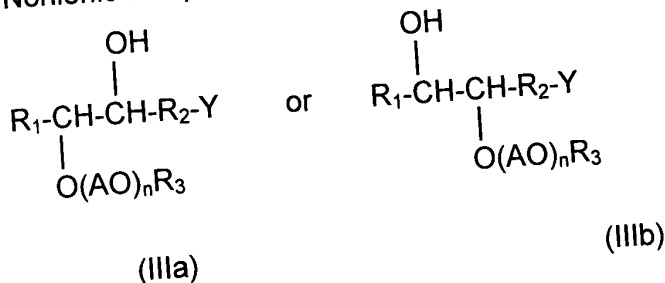


where the carbon atoms shown in the structure element are part of the aliphatic carbon skeleton of group R, which contains 8-24 carbon atoms, and Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.

Please add new claims 11-25.

11. Nonionic compounds of claim 1 containing 1-2 structure elements according to formula (II). --

- 12. Nonionic compounds of the general formulae



where R₁ is an aliphatic group, R₂ is an aliphatic radical, the sum of carbon atoms contained in R₁ and R₂ is between 9 and 19; Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.--

--13. Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.--

--14. Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.--

--15. Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.--

--16. Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--17. Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--18. Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--19. Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where n is 3-20 and R₃ is methyl or ethyl.--

--20. Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--21. Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--